

# NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



## Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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### CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Definitions and grades for canned string and lima beans	1243	Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration report	1252
Uniform state arbitration laws sought	1245	Pennsylvania law on drug store ownership held invalid	1253
Prices of tomatoes and peas for canning	1247	Northwest canners meet in January	1253
Business conditions	1247	New Association publications	1254
Wholesale and retail prices in October	1248	Canned foods exports in October	1254
Truck crop markets	1249	"The grocery revolution"	1254
Truck crop conditions	1250	Mexican fish cannery extends operations	1255
Fewer tomatoes to come from Bahamas	1251	Why not tomato juice?	1255
Definition and standard for mayonaisse salad dressing	1251	To make survey of New York City food supply	1256
Standards for ginger ale, sarsaparilla and cinnamon extracts	1251	Volume II of Commerce Yearbook for 1928 issued	1256
Misbranding of artificially colored and flavored dessert powders	1252	Bulletin available on apple scald	1256

### Definitions and Grades for Canned String and Lima Beans

Suggested drafts of definitions and grades for canned string beans and canned lima beans, for use under the U. S. Warehouse Act, have been prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and have been submitted to canners of these products for criticism and suggestions.

The drafts include a score card for each product, and follow, in general, the form of the tentative definitions and grades for canned peas, tomatoes and cream-style corn, approved in principle and for use under the Warehouse Act at the annual convention of this Association in Chicago last January.

Copies of the drafts may be obtained from the Warehouse Administration, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

### Uniform State Arbitration Laws Sought

Legislatures of 37 States will be asked, early in 1929, to enact a commercial arbitration law more favorable to the requirements of modern business. More than 100 leading national trade bodies are behind this movement to secure such uniform comprehensive legislation and have endorsed a Draft State Arbitration Act which will accomplish this purpose, according to an announcement of the American Arbitration Association.

The associations actively cooperating include the National Canners Association and such organizations as the American

Bankers Associations, American Exporters and Importers Association, American Society of Certified Public Accountants, American Society of Civil Engineers, National Association of Credit Men, and National Association of Purchasing Agents.

Arbitration is an uncertain remedy for the settlement of business controversies in these 37 States because an agreement to arbitrate a dispute later arising out of a contract may be repudiated by either party and no provision is made to secure the assistance of the courts to compel the arbitration to proceed. In seven States—New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, California, Pennsylvania, Oregon and Louisiana—as well as under the Federal Arbitration Act, such an arbitration agreement is effective insurance against litigation, since it bars an action at law over a controversy arising out of the contract and requires the parties to settle it by arbitration. As a result, business men in New York, Philadelphia, Boston, San Francisco and other cities in the seven States mentioned, have many economic advantages over those in such cities as St. Louis, Chicago, Seattle and Cleveland and in all the other States because of the inadequate or limited arbitration statutes in such States.

The enactment of the Draft State Arbitration Act in all of the States would remove these geographical business handicaps. All arbitration agreements would then be uniformly applicable throughout the country, and commercial disputes would be settled speedily, inexpensively and with finality.

Briefly summarized, the Draft Act provides as follows:

1. When parties voluntarily agree to arbitrate all future disputes arising out of a contract and insert a clause to that effect, or submit to arbitration an existing dispute, such agreements are valid, irrevocable and enforceable in the same manner as any other agreement.
2. When a party to such an agreement fails, refuses or neglects to proceed with the arbitration, the Court will direct him to do so.
3. When a party brings an action in Court on a dispute arising out of such a contract, the Court will stay the trial until the arbitration has been concluded.
4. In order to expedite the proceedings, arbitrators are empowered to hold hearings, summon witnesses and order the production of books and papers.
5. When a party refuses to comply with or perform an award, the Court is required to enter judgment thereon, unless there is proof of misconduct or bias by the arbitrators or if they have exceeded their authority.
6. The judgement on an award is executed in the same manner as a judgment in an action.
7. The award is final as to the merits of the controversy and the Court cannot review the facts or render a new decision.

8. Quick and decisive action is assured on all applications to the Court, as "motions" are not generally subject to the usual calendar delays.

Copies of the Draft State Arbitration Act can be obtained, without charge, from the American Arbitration Association at 342 Madison Avenue, New York City.

### Prices of Tomatoes and Peas for Canning

Prices of tomatoes and green peas for manufacture in 1928 have been compiled by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates of the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and are given in the following tables, along with the prices for the three preceding years, as compiled by the same office. For 1928 the price of peas is stated in cents per pounds; for earlier years in dollars per ton.

#### TOMATOES

(Dollars per ton)

State	1925	1926	1927	1928
Arkansas .....	\$13.65	\$11.94	\$12.70	\$12.39
California .....	16.29	15.61	15.00	.....
Colorado .....	11.50	12.00	12.00	16.00
Delaware .....	16.37	20.00	14.00	15.22
Illinois .....	12.22	12.44	12.90	12.46
Indiana .....	12.79	12.00	12.00	12.82
Iowa .....	14.33	12.88	14.29	12.90
Kentucky .....	18.40	12.25	13.08	12.25
Maryland .....	15.97	12.00	14.25	14.54
Michigan .....	11.91	11.00	12.12	11.00
Missouri .....	12.52	11.85	12.87	12.75
New Jersey .....	17.00	20.40	18.00	18.93
New York .....	18.31	15.30	14.92	14.73
Ohio .....	12.00	11.20	12.45	11.31
Pennsylvania .....	16.00	12.40	14.24	13.24
Tennessee .....	15.39	12.42	12.95	12.33
Utah .....	11.99	10.00	11.00	11.00
Virginia .....	16.19	12.72	12.75	12.38
Other states .....	13.24	12.00	14.42	12.18

#### PEAS

(Dollars per ton, 1925-27; cents per pound, 1928)

State	1925	1926	1927	1928
California .....	\$63.75	\$65.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
Colorado .....	60.00	60.00	60.00	.025
Delaware .....	70.88	75.00	60.00	.030
Illinois .....	70.34	65.00	60.00	.029
Indiana .....	55.57	52.05	57.48	.020
Maine .....	70.00	70.00	70.00	.035
Maryland .....	66.84	60.00	60.00	.030
Michigan .....	50.69	50.00	55.00	.020
Minnesota .....	47.32	53.79	45.00	.030
New Jersey .....	67.00	61.00	65.00	.040
New York .....	63.63	60.00	59.00	.030
Ohio .....	62.00	62.02	61.87	.027
Pennsylvania .....	60.00	58.59	58.00	.030
Utah .....	56.93	58.27	52.84	.030
Wisconsin .....	57.18	57.52	58.87	.030
Other states .....	51.15	53.67	47.76	.030

### Business Conditions

The volume of business during the week ended November 17, as indicated by check payments, was larger than in the preceding week but recorded a fractional recession from the corres-

ponding period or last year, according to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce. The general index of wholesale prices showed a fractional gain over the preceding week, being higher also than at this time a year earlier.

Loans and discounts of Federal Reserve member banks were smaller than in the previous week but larger than a year ago. Interest rates for time funds showed no change from the preceding week, but were higher than last year. Call money rates averaged lower than in the previous week, but were higher than a year ago. Prices for stocks reached a new high level.

Distribution of goods as reflected by freight-car loadings covering the latest available week, was greater than a year ago.

	CAR LOADINGS			
	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended November 16 .....	1,054,295	394,329	261,768	397,199
Preceding week .....	1,103,342	427,670	267,134	408,538
Corresponding week, 1927 .....	975,134	372,905	258,776	343,453
Corresponding week, 1926 .....	1,166,889	397,872	266,049	712,968

Loading of revenue freight, for the first 44 weeks this year—that is, from January 1 to November 3—totaled 44,021,267 cars, a reduction of 655,434 cars, or 1.5 per cent, compared with the corresponding period in 1927, and a reduction of 1,470,721 cars, or 3.2 per cent, compared with the same period in 1926.

#### Wholesale and Retail Prices in October

A reaction from the recent upward trend of wholesale prices is shown for October by information collected by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Bureau's weighted index number, computed on prices in 1926 as the base and including 550 commodities or price series, stands at 97.8 for October compared with 100.1 for September, a decrease of nearly 2 1/3 per cent. Compared with October, 1927, however, with an index number of 97, an increase of over three-fourths of 1 per cent is shown.

Farm products led in price declines from the previous month, the group as a whole averaging almost 5 per cent lower than in the preceding month. Foods also averaged lower.

The retail food index issued by the Bureau shows for October 15, 1928, a decrease of about one-half of 1 per cent since September 15, 1928, and an increase of a little more than four-tenths of 1 per cent since October 15, 1927. The average price of canned red salmon decreased 2 per cent, and canned corn and peas 1 per cent. Canned tomatoes increased 2 per cent, while there was no change in evaporated milk and baked beans.

### Truck Crop Markets

Colder weather prevailed in many shipping areas during the week ended November 17, and rains interfered with the hauling and loading of some vegetables, according to the U. S. Market News Service.

Carlot movement of string beans was only one-sixth as heavy as a year ago. California tomato shipments dropped to 145 cars, and the East Coast of Florida started 28 cars to market.

Movement of California oranges increased to 1,315 cars last week, as against only 80 a year ago. Florida's forwardings of 1,015 cars were one-third heavier than last season. Grape output, chiefly from California, had dropped sharply to 725 cars, and was much lighter than in mid-November, 1927. Virginia shipped only 90 cars of spinach, compared with 215 during the same week last year.

Combined movement of 25 important fruits and vegetables was only 17,000 cars, as against 20,350 the preceding week and 18,140 a year ago. Citrus fruit was the major product to show an increase. Nearly all other lines decreased considerably.

Onion shipments during the remainder of this season will be lighter than usual. The Government estimate shows total production of 22,384 carloads in 14 late-shipping States. About 12,140 cars had been shipped to November 1, including the equivalent of 500 carloads by truck in Wisconsin and 200 carloads by truck in New York. This would leave 10,240 cars of onions to supply all demands after November 1, or only about half as many as were available at the same time last season.

Rainy weather interfered with cabbage movement. New York shipped only 450 cars last week, compared with 850 a year ago. Wisconsin forwarded only 155 cars during the week. Total output of 725 cars was 450 less than in mid-November, 1927.

California shipped 205 cars of celery and New York about the same number, with 60 from Oregon. Total movement of 510 cars from all shipping States was about 40 per cent lighter than a year ago. Principal storages in New York reported 450,000 crates on November 9, compared with 686,000 last year.

Sweet potatoes were selling lower in most markets. Virginia shipments dropped to 230 cars, and all shipping States forwarded only 525, as against 890 cars a year ago.

Output of apples continued its sharp downward trend. Com-

bined movement of 4,290 cars was 1,500 less than the week before, but 500 more than last season. Western States shipped 2,570, and eastern and northern States about 1,720 cars.

## CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	Nov. 11-17 1928	Nov. 4-10 1928	Nov. 13-19 1927	Total this season to Nov. 17	Total last season to Nov. 19	Total last season
Apples, total .....	4,287	5,888	3,787	84,040	84,652	93,073
Eastern .....	1,720	2,383	1,458	48,314	33,492	44,413
Western .....	2,567	3,475	2,329	40,826	51,160	48,660
Asparagus .....	2	5	6	2,880	2,132	2,132
Cabbage .....	727	932	1,169	30,528	29,968	36,087
Carrots:						
1929 season .....	71	86	(a)	578	(a)	8,072
1928 season .....	59	85	(a)	6,073	(a)	8,832
Cauliflower .....	221	229	139	2,075	2,058	9,046
Grapefruit:						
Domestic .....	547	445	597	8,328	8,874	16,230
Imports .....	3	2	12	516	1,253	1,287
Green peas:						
1929 season .....	92	31	68	124	98	4,076
1928 season .....	6	15	2	4,678	4,144	4,147
Mixed deciduous fruit ....	8	17	23	6,273	5,888	5,498
Mixed vegetables .....	354	319	323	30,105	32,100	32,090
Pears .....	146	173	139	22,908	17,854	18,744
Peppers .....	81	36	20	3,322	2,792	2,854
Spinach:						
1929 season .....	60	48	273	128	680	10,467
1928 season .....	55	69	23	10,467	9,015	9,655
String beans:						
1929 season .....	31	7	271	31	497	5,382
1928 season .....	35	63	61	6,382	6,462	6,461
Tomatoes:						
1929 season .....	28	19	3	41	5	29,739
1928 season .....	102	333	120	29,739	32,497	32,663

(a) Unavailable

## Truck Crop Conditions

The possible production of Imperial peas in California, according to the November 18 report of the Agricultural Statistician, is 70 to 80 per cent greater than last Fall, and shipments should increase to 20 to 25 cars daily and remain heavy for another two or three weeks, depending on future weather.

West Coast Mexico pea shippers report about 11,000 acres compared with 14,000 last year. Sand and soil conditions are much better than last year, when about 829 cars were shipped and 50 to 60 per cent of the crop was lost by floods and aphid infestation. Production should exceed last year and crop earlier, with shipments expected heavy throughout the season.

The present acreage of early peppers, beans and eggplant in Florida is reported by the Agricultural Statistician as smaller than usual.

The average condition of truck crops in commercial areas on November 15, 1927 and 1928, as reported by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics, is shown in the following table:



	Nov. 13, 1927 Per cent	Nov. 13, 1928 Per cent
Cabbage (Cal., Fla., La., S. C., Tex., Va.) .....	83	77
Spinach (Cal., La., S. C., Tex., Va.) .....	84	88
Tomatoes (Fla., Tex.) .....	71	70
Peas (Cal., Imp.) .....	73	91
Peppers (Cal., Fla., Tex.) .....	86	82
Snap beans (Cal., Fla., Tex.) .....	—	76
Beets (La., Tex.) .....	72	72
Carrots (Cal., La., Tex.) .....	80	86

### Fewer Tomatoes to Come from Bahamas

As a result of the September hurricane, tomato shipments from the Bahamas for the 1928-29 season are expected to total less than 95,000 bushels, or about half of the preceding season's shipments, according to a report from the American Vice-Consul at Nassau. It is estimated that 95 per cent of the planters lost about 75 per cent of their plantings, with the losses only partially replanted.

### Definition and Standard for Mayonnaise Salad Dressing

The Secretary of Agriculture has adopted a definition and standard for mayonnaise salad dressing, which has not heretofore been officially defined, according to an announcement by the Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration. The new definition was adopted upon the recommendation of the Food Standards Committee, a joint committee including representatives of the Association of Dairy, Food and Drug Officials, Association of Official Agricultural Chemists and the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The standards and definitions recommended by this committee are not only adopted by the Department of Agriculture for the guidance of its officials in enforcing the Federal Food and Drugs Act but by many States in the enforcement of State laws. In some States the standards and definitions adopted by the Department of Agriculture automatically become standards and definitions for those States. The text of the new definition and standard is as follows:

"Mayonnaise, mayonnaise dressing, mayonnaise salad dressing, is the clean, sound, semi-solid emulsion of edible vegetable oil and egg yolk or whole egg, with vinegar and/or lemon juice, and with one or more of the following: salt, spice, sugar. The finished product contains not less than 50 per cent of edible vegetable oil, and the sum of the percentages of oil and egg yolk is not less than 78."

### Standards for Ginger Ale, Sarsaparilla and Cinnamon Extracts

Revised and amended definitions and standards for ginger ale and ginger ale flavor, sarsaparilla and sarsaparilla flavor and

for cinnamon extracts have been adopted by the Secretary of Agriculture at the recommendation of the Food Standards Committee, according to an announcement by the Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. These definitions and standards are adopted for the guidance of officials of the department in the enforcement of the Federal food and drugs act.

#### **Misbranding of Artificially Colored and Flavored Dessert Powders**

Gelatin dessert powders that contain no fruit juice but are merely fruit flavored or artificially flavored and artificially colored are held to be misbranded under the Federal food and drugs act if their labels contain designs of fruit, names of fruit, or statements regarding fruit or fruit juice that might lead purchasers to believe they are real fruit products, according to a recent notice to the trade by the Food, Drug, and Insecticide administration of the United States Department of Agriculture.

#### **Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration Report**

Emphasis on constructive research, prevention and "an advisory-before-the act attitude" has a leading place in the report of the year's activities of the Food, Drug, and Insecticide Administration submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture by Walter G. Campbell, Director of Regulatory Work. This is the first annual report by the administration, which was created in its present form on July 1, 1927, to centralize and consolidate many of the regulatory functions entrusted to the department, and to divorce these from the strictly research activities. This agency is responsible for the enforcement of the food and drugs act, the tea act, and the naval stores act, formerly enforced by the Bureau of Chemistry, of the insecticide act, formerly under the Insecticide and Fungicide Board, and the import milk act and the caustic poison act which went into effect after the administration was created.

"In enforcing the six statutes," says Mr. Campbell, "the administration has attempted to adopt a constructive attitude. Observations through more than 20 years of law enforcement have demonstrated convincingly that only an insignificant proportion of the members of the industries concerned deliberately violate the law. Most of them earnestly desire to comply with all reasonable regulations, not only on ethical grounds, but also



because it is good business. Recognizing this, the Department has chosen to recognize the six laws as corrective rather than punitive, and has adopted an advisory-before-the-act attitude by offering constructive suggestions which should enable manufacturers to keep their products in compliance with the law."

As illustrations of the constructive side of the work Mr. Campbell cites work done in devising a machine to eliminate wormy and otherwise undesirable blueberries before canning, a method for testing tomato products worked out by Federal scientists and applied by canners for the detection of decomposed materials which would spoil the pack, and the limitation of shipments of frozen citrus fruits, which was suggested by the fruit packers themselves and in which the administration had the cordial aid of the State agencies in Florida and California.

New discoveries and changing conditions have made the work on insecticides and fungicides active this year, and the director reports that many new manufacturers do not maintain close chemical control over their products. Nearly 1,400 samples were examined, the largest number in any year.

#### **Pennsylvania Law on Drug Store Ownership Held Invalid**

The U. S. Supreme Court, in a decision rendered November 16, held the Pennsylvania statute regulating drug store ownership to be unconstitutional. The case was appealed to the Supreme Court by a Massachusetts corporation operating a number of drug stores in Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania statute provides that every pharmacy or drug store shall be owned only by a licensed pharmacist, and, in the case of corporations, associations, and copartnerships, requires that all the partners or members thereof shall be licensed pharmacists, with the exception that such corporations as are already organized and existing and duly authorized and empowered to do business in the State and own and conduct drug stores or pharmacies, and associations and partnerships, which, at the time of the passage of the act, still own and conduct drug stores or pharmacies, may continue to own and conduct the same.

#### **Northwest Cannery Meet in January**

The annual meeting of the Northwest Cannery Association, it is announced, will be held at Portland, Oregon, on January 2, 3 and 4, 1929.

## New Association Publications

With this issue of the Information Letter is mailed a copy of Abstracts of Canning Technology, Vol. VI, No. 3, also bulletin No. 104-A, the latter containing reprints of articles on canned foods in the diet by Dr. E. F. Kohman of the National Canners Association Research Laboratory, and by Dr. E. V. McCollum, Professor of Biochemistry in the school of Hygiene and Public Health, John Hopkins University.

## Canned Foods Exports in October

Exports of canned foods in October of this year, compared with the same month last year, were characterized by increases in asparagus, corn, peas, tomatoes, miscellaneous canned vegetables, evaporated milk, apples and applesauce, cherries, prunes, peaches, pears, pineapple, miscellaneous fruits, salmon and sardines. In other products there were decreases.

The following table, compiled from records of the Division of Statistics of the Department of Commerce, presents detailed figures for more articles than heretofore carried in the monthly tables in the Information Letter. It is hoped that these detailed figures can be carried each month in the Information Letter published around the 25th.

	October, 1927		October, 1925	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total	1,299,200	\$467,790	925,952	\$327,717
Beef	205,635	81,170	96,945	38,206
Pork	543,433	221,354	472,236	175,490
Sausage	334,030	103,780	158,180	55,007
Other	216,099	59,230	204,613	64,014
Canned vegetables, total	9,256,135	758,879	9,958,542	932,609
Asparagus	1,237,390	183,150	1,863,845	289,951
Baked beans and pork and beans	1,603,513	141,246	1,025,876	100,922
Corn	665,610	44,932	1,836,425	122,979
Peas	470,235	47,414	678,292	60,708
Soups	3,180,102	275,117	2,527,850	243,121
Tomatoes	441,384	26,081	596,431	35,638
Other	696,878	40,950	1,415,483	21,289
Condensed milk	2,759,607	456,779	2,531,087	426,461
Evaporated milk	5,129,619	515,393	5,263,753	628,260
Canned fruits, total	31,165,095	2,895,242	48,171,446	4,111,231
Apples and applesauce	2,531,199	140,792	3,974,677	315,350
Apricots	2,602,873	338,196	3,646,378	353,596
Berries	862,259	108,632	737,699	73,527
Cherries	226,773	33,373	385,303	38,907
Prunes	232,800	27,302	504,353	46,413
Peaches	9,880,883	832,484	12,780,702	1,049,659
Pears	8,906,721	925,710	17,861,321	1,605,487
Pineapple	4,176,061	371,306	4,846,858	448,534
Other	703,442	77,483	1,139,193	165,343
Salmon	3,247,528	549,339	5,855,946	1,033,433
Sardines	6,468,397	860,414	19,051,638	785,453

## "The Grocery Revolution"

Gove Hambidge contributes to the November issue of the Ladies' Home Journal an interesting article on the development

of package goods for the grocery trade, in which considerable space is devoted to canned products. Among the illustrations are two photographs showing views of the Association's Research Laboratory in Washington.

#### Mexican Fish Cannery Extends Operations

The newly established cannery at Sausal, about 5 miles north of Ensenada, Mexico was operated to capacity throughout the summer, whenever sufficient supplies of fish were available, according to the American Consul at Ensenada. Originally equipped and operated as a fish fertilizer manufacturing plant, a fish cannery section was added and the addition is now much more important than the fertilizer section. More than 40,000 cases were packed during the third quarter of this year and it is confidently expected that the total pack will exceed 100,000 cases before the end of the year. Tuna, mackerel, sardines and abalone are included in the lines packed. These products are being marketed in the United States, Hawaii and Mexico. Trade inquiries have been received by the firm from Japan but no exports to that market are planned for the present.

#### Why Not Tomato Juice?

The suggestion from a Tennessee physician that tomato juice be recommended for use with cod liver oil, as well as orange juice, was recently received by the E. S. Patch Co., of Boston, producers of cod liver oil. The physician's letter appears in "Patchwork," the house journal of the company, under the title "Why Not Tomato Juice." The article states:

There has been so much said during the past few years regarding orange juice for babies that it has now come to be an accepted custom to give orange juice to babies as a routine treatment.

A letter which we recently received from a doctor in Knoxville, Tenn., throws a little new light on the subject. Right at this time when oranges are at peak price it seems timely to reprint a portion of this letter which we are doing with the permission of the doctor.

"I always enjoy your snappy, home-folksy Patchwork and often get ideas that help me carry on. I've used your cod liver oil with orange juice and found it very beneficial.

"At this time of year oranges are scarce, very high and often not first class. In country homes they are next to impossible as a steady diet.

"It has been found by many dietitians that tomato juice raw or cooked is as valuable in vitamins as orange juice.

"Babies seem to do just as well on one as the other. Tomatoes are plentiful and inexpensive when oranges are scarce and high.

"Since tomatoes do not lose food value in cooking they are always available in the canned product.

"Why not advise either orange or tomato juice with your cod liver oil? That would put it within the reach of everyone,—city, country, rich or poor."

#### **To Make Survey of New York City Food Supply**

The cooperating agencies comprising the New York Food Marketing Research Council decided at a meeting in New York October 23 that the council should undertake as its next project the assembling of material for a statistical abstract of the food supply and food consumption of metropolitan New York. This will be essentially a compilation for publication of all available information bearing on the subject, of which that from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics is expected to form a large part. The council will arrange for the publication of the manuscript and furnish supplies of copies to the cooperating institutions.

#### **Volume II of Commerce Yearbook for 1928 Issued**

Volume II of the Commerce Yearbook for 1928 has just been released by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The purpose of this volume is to supply the same type of information on foreign countries for 1927 as volume I contains on the United States. The book contains an economic review of each individual country, including discussions on production, transportation, labor conditions, price movements, public finance, currency and exchange, and foreign trade. Comparative world statistics by countries are given for area and population, agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, communication and finance.

#### **Bulletin Available on Apple Scald**

Apple scald, one of the most serious diseases with which the apple industry must contend, can be largely controlled or reduced if growers, dealers, and storage companies will make use of available knowledge on control and apply measures now known to be effective. Such information is published in Farmers' Bulletin 1380-F, "Apple Scald and Its Control," just issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. A copy of the bulletin may be obtained by writing to the Department at Washington, D. C.